

July 20, 2018

IIU concludes investigation into man's injury during arrest by RCMP

The Independent Investigation Unit (IIU) has concluded its investigation into an incident in which a male was injured during his arrest by Thompson RCMP. It has concluded that no charges should be laid against any involved officer.

On March 13, 2018, RCMP were called to remove an intoxicated and unwanted male from a resident in Thompson. One officer responded and attempted to handcuff the man, but he ran from the residence. Other officers assisted, tackled the man to the ground, and punched and kicked him as he resisted arrest. Once subdued, he was lodged in cells and complained of pain to his rib area. He was taken to Thompson General Hospital, where it was determined he had sustained a broken rib. As this is a serious injury, the IIU was mandated to investigate.

During the course of their investigation, IIU investigators interviewed seven attending officers, two civilians who witnessed the arrest, and the affected male. The man recalled few details of his arrest, said he did not know how he got a broken rib and did not recall the police doing anything to him.

The primary issue for the IIU was whether members of the RCMP subjected the man to unnecessary and excessive force during their struggle with him and his arrest. In his report on the investigation, IIU Civilian Director Zane Tessler noted police are authorized to use force in the lawful execution of their duties and as much as necessary for the intended purpose. He said it was clear the man was unwilling to be detained and handcuffed and was bent on escaping and using force to avoid arrest. He determined there were insufficient grounds to justify laying charges against any officer.

The civilian director's complete report is available online. The details of this investigation were first announced on March 16, 2018.

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